sed to state:

(a) whether NBRI, Lucknow has been engaged in R and D work on dehaydration of flowers and foliage which was also exhibited at Kerala in September, 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating commercial implications and relevance of the findings; and

(c) whether similar work is being done in any other CSIR/ICAR laboratories; if so, the manner in which this is being coordinated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dehydrated flowers and foliage form excellent raw-materials for making several saleable items like greeting cards, wall hangings, landscape and floristic arrangements in sealed transparent containers etc. Cottage scale production of these items can come up with institutional support.

(c) CSIR Complex, Palampur has taken up extension of this technical knowhow, as a result of which 150 women entrepreneurs have been trained. The extension work has further facilitated the setting up of 10 units during the last 3 years. No R&D work is being done in this regard by ICAR Institutes/Laboratories.

R and D work on drinking water by Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow

3055. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that R and D work is being carried out on Drinking Water quality at Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow for the past several years;

(b) if so, the salient features of the observations/assessment made at GFRU, Directors Laboratories for Ganga Action Plan and under the Technology Mission;

(c) whether there is a close interaction amongst these units if so, the details of joint meetings held, if any, indicating when this was last held;

(d) whether the Director ITRC is also the Project Coordinator of this Project; and

(e) whether the Director is also personally incharge of any other R and D projects, apart from his duties outside Lucknow, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) and (b) Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), as well as other laboratories of the CSIR, have been carrying out drinking water quality studies as a part of the drinking water mission. A salient feature of the observations so far made is that there is no major problem of chemical contamination of water sources studied at GERU, but the data indicate bacteriological contamination in several samples.

(c) Yes, Sir; a number of meetings have been held amongst the groups concerned with the monitoring and coordination of the programme of work. The last meeting in this regard took place on 14.5.1990.

(d) For all multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional studies/programmes undertaken in ITRC including this project, Director, ITRC coordinates the activities for smooth and effective interaction.

(e) Director, ITRC is personally incharge of R&D projects on preventive toxicology, immuno-biology and environmental microbiology.

Pollution of Ganga at Kanpur

3056 SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ganga continues to be polluted at

Kanpur by the Industrial Units; if so, the details of such units and corrective action taken/proposed to be taken by the local authorities under the Ganga Action Plan; and

(b) whether any action would be taken against the habitual defaulters; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) Of the 21 identified gross polluting industrial units located at Kanpur 14 have set setupEffluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) which are operative. Of these, performance of two units is still under evaluation, one needs further codification and the remaining ETPs have been found to be working satisfactorily. Two units have closed down.

Apart from these, there is a cluster of 166 tanneries in the Jammu area of Kanpur which are highly pollutive. A common conveyance and treatment scheme has been taken up under the Ganga Action Plan with the assistance of the Netherland's Government, to collect, convey and treat the effluents from this cluster of tanneries which are also required to carry out pretreatment of their effluents.

Legal action has been taken against 17 tanneries in this cluster who have not yet established primary treatment facilities and eight tanneries have closed down. Attempt was made to disconnect water and electric supply to ten units but they have obtained stay orders from the Court.

Action would be taken against habitual defaulters as has been in the past as indicated above and which would include action under the water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Special drive for SC/ST in services

3057. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of special drive launched to fill up the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes in services;

(b) what are the areas for which suitable candidates from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are difficult to find or could not be found as yet; and

(c) how Government propose to fill up such vacancies?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) The Special Recruitment Drive launched by the Government to fill up backlog of reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as on 31.8.90 is in progress. The target date for completion of the drive is 31-10-1990.

3058. (Transferred to the 6th September, 1990).

Reservations to Economically Backward among the Reserved Classes

3059. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the beneficiaries under the reservations in services and educational institutions for Scheduled Castes and backward classes are from wealthy and educated sections of these castes; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposed to take any legislative and administrative steps to ensure that the benefits of these reservations reach the economically backward among these classes?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS